
Importance to 'patients' or the population	People with gout would receive timely and effective patient centric education about their gout including the causes of gout, its long-term effects and why it is important to consider long-term treatment in a way that they can understand. Patients would have the opportunity to engage in shared decision making and discuss any concerns regarding starting on long - term medication. This would improve patient engagement with starting long-term treatment for gout in a timely and systematic manner, improve adherence with treatment, improve patient outcomes, reduce the number of gout flares, reduce risks of developing/worsening comorbidities (e.g. chronic kidney disease) and improve quality of life.
Relevance to NICE guidance	Peoples lack of understanding about the long-term consequences of gout and patient perceptions as to why they have gout have been raised by the NICE Gout Guideline Committee as perceived barriers to treatment and a cause of lack of adherence to medication. The majority of gout patients are diagnosed and treated in primary care. There is no study that assesses these information barriers in primary care including the type and style of patient information which is patient-centric, when best to

	<p>deliver this information, and best modes of information delivery including timing and by whom. There is the risk of inequalities of treatment between patients well informed about gout and those that are not.</p>
Relevance to the NHS	<p>There are important cost and resource implications of under provision of information in primary care including more frequent flares with resulting patient contact and pain medication usage, time off work, long-term adverse consequences including development of new/worsening of existing comorbidities and resource impact, and risk of inequalities of treatment between patients well informed about gout and those that are not. Over the medium and long-term, application of an evidence-based strategy of the most clinically and cost-effective ways of delivering patient-centric information on gout including why long-term treatment is advised should positively reduce resource use and improve the overall gout patient population's health with resultant cost-savings for NHSE.</p>
National priorities	<p>High- gout is an area of concern identified by NICE as having high variability and needing guidance to improve patient outcomes and standards of care. These aspects have relevance to NHSE 10 Year Plan, the Best MSK Health Initiative and the 2019 MSK Health 5 Year Strategy aims of removing inequalities and variation in care and improved outcomes in patients' self-care, especially in Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine.</p>
Current evidence base	<p>No evidence was identified</p>
Equality considerations	<p>Prevalence and severity of gout are associated with lower levels of education and lower socio-economic status whilst more frequent flares are associated with higher levels of work absenteeism. Given the evidence that there is an existing relationship between gout and individual deprivation, we need to ensure that the current approach to helping patients manage the condition isn't exacerbating this inequality.</p>